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Signature of Depositor	

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Christoph Seidel, et al.

Serial No. : Divisional of Serial No. 08/896,032

Filed : Concurrently herewith

For : METHOD FOR DETERMINING EARLY HCV
SEROCONVERSION

Group Art Unit : To be Assigned

Examiner : To be Assigned

March 17, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. BOX 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sirs:

Prior to examination, please amend this application as follows: